

have seen in our own garden. We value it for its spring flowers, and it must be confessed it blossoms magnificently. Last year we had two trees in fruit—a five and a four-year old. They bore remarkably well, and to our surprise the fruit was palatable. It is a small russet brown plum, not unlike some of our common varieties at home; but one could not say of it that it is equal to our inferior sorts, or that it is a fruit one would care to eat if one had any choice. The pear is abundant all over the Province, and during my last journey down south, I saw some fine large growers of some fifteen to twenty years' standing. Those I have myself grown are from Kuang-Ning, in the west of the Province, where the Chinese seem to take some pains with the cultivation. I was supposed to have quite a large assortment, but I can only count four varieties, and of these, I say confidently, there is not one which would be tolerated in the west. It might be worth while to enquire whether the variety we commonly speak of as the 'Peking' pear (native of Chihli Province), would not bear removal to America, but I should fancy we only think it luscious in comparison with the turnip taste of the others. I confess I have eaten it as a great delicacy in mid-winter, but then it was in the north of China, and after I had forgotten the taste of home fruit.

"The peach is also a poor thing in this Province, nor did I ever think much of it in Shantung. Some good judges, however, declare it to have a flavor of its own, and I have heard one friend say, that neither the English nor American varieties which he has tasted have the rich, fruity flavor of our native peach (such as we have here in our own garden). Of this you are yourself competent to judge, as you have frequently tasted them. It is noteworthy, however, that the very palatable peaches

you ate last year in Mrs. C.'s garden were from wild plants sown only three or four years ago. We had no such good eatable peaches ever from trees we consider to be grafts.

"As to the grape, I should not fancy we have anything to offer to the west. I differ from most in their enthusiasm for the grape of this Province. All I know is that I could not refrain from eating grapes in Shantung, even when I suffered a severe penalty, whereas here I am simply beyond temptation. I have eaten grapes in Germany, where they were as common as gooseberries with us, and I am meanwhile awaiting the advent of a grape which will dimly remind me of these. But the Chinese seem to me very backward in the matter of grape culture, and therefore we don't know as yet what the native varieties are capable of. For the quince you must enquire further south. I used to see it used largely in condiments in the south of Shantung Province.

"We have, of course, no currants. As you know, a year or two hence we shall have some notion of how American fruit trees do in our Manchurian climate. Excuse poverty.

"Yours sincerely,

"J. MACINTYRE.

"P.S.—Mr. Macintyre refers to some fruit trees which he and I got last year from the States. We can say nothing of them yet. J. W."

This letter was accompanied by one from Dr. Watson himself, dated at Newchwang, 2nd March, 1882, in which he says:

"I very much fear there are no fruit trees worth sending to Canada from this portion of China. There are two pears however—a large and a small kind—grown in and near Peking, which to my mind are simply delicious. I differ from Mr. Macintyre in his esti-